

Trail History:

The 1.5 mile Eisenmenger Trail connects Coolidge Field in downtown Natick with Memorial School in South Natick. The trail was named in honor of Bob Eisenmenger, who served on the Natick Planning Board for 35 years and was instrumental in securing easements for this and other trails in Natick.

Coolidge Field, Coolidge Woods, and nearby Coolidge Hill, were donated to the Town by William Leander Coolidge (1833-1904), a relative of President Calvin Coolidge and a nephew of Vice President and Natick resident Henry Wilson. Coolidge built a beautiful 18-room Second Empire home, still standing as senior housing on South Main Street. In 1927, his heirs donated adjacent land for the Coolidge Junior High School, now Coolidge Gardens.

The carriage road that leads down to Memorial School and Eliot Street was the grand entrance to the large home near Woodland Street built by William S. Patten about 1906. The Woodland Street area included the apple orchards of the Patten estate. Later, the Oblate Fathers acquired the home for a seminary and became known for walking prayerfully up and down what is now Memorial School lane.

As you walk down Memorial School Lane toward Route 16 (Eliot Street), Memorial School (dedicated in 1968) is on your left and the 27 acre Natick Community Organic Farm (NCOF) is on the right. The Farm property was purchased by the School Committee in 1974 and conveyed to the Conservation Commission for permanent protection in 2009. The NCOF land was once a small horse farm, called Elm Brook, owned by Miss Jane Patten.

The land along the Charles River where the Community Farm and Memorial School now stand was first held by Thomas Waban of the Praying Indians and over time was also owned by the Peabody, Badger, Bacon, Brown and Hunnewell families.

Please note: Public parks and trails in Natick are drug and alcohol free. No motorized vehicles. No weapons or fireworks. No glass containers. No littering. No smoking or fires.

Public Safety & Trail Access Information:

- Walk with someone you know, let someone know where you are walking, or carry a cell phone.
- Trails are for daylight use only.
- Use insect repellent and wear long pants to avoid ticks and poison ivy (leaves of three, let them be).
- Leash and pick up after your dog.

The trail crosses through several housing developments and parcels of town property. Please respect private property along the trail. The trail is not ADA accessible due to several areas of rough terrain and significant changes in elevation.

The northern terminus is at Coolidge Field, corner of Chester and Sheridan Streets, near Natick center. Parking is permitted on area streets. Beginning at the trail kiosk at the southeast corner of Coolidge Field, the trail goes into Coolidge Woods. At a rocky outcropping with a wooden bridge on your left, take the railroad tie steps going up to your right (a left turn at this point would take you toward the Leonard Morse Hospital). The trail skirts a swampy area to your left. Take your first right and then turn left in about fifty yards. Follow the signs and "arrow" directions towards Memorial School.

After crossing the small stream on the platform bridge, turn left at the paved extension of Sundance Way. Cross Moccasin Path and follow straight on. The trail will climb up to an old "farmers bridge" of large stone. Turn right for fifty feet and then turn left at the marked post. A swampy area to your left contains a vernal pool where you can hear the "quacking" of wood frogs in the spring. Bear left past the wet area and go up to Rockwood Road and then right to Woodland Street. Be careful, this is a well traveled street!

Cross Woodland Street and turn right on the trail behind the homes on Davis Brook Road. After the two boardwalks, go left when you come to the old gravel service road. The trail goes behind the condos on an obvious path. Please stay on the pathway. At the end of the condos, go right downhill on the old carriage road that leads to Memorial school and the southern end of the trail. Parking is available on the side of the school.
First Edition – September 2010

NATICK TRAILS

Eisenmenger Trail

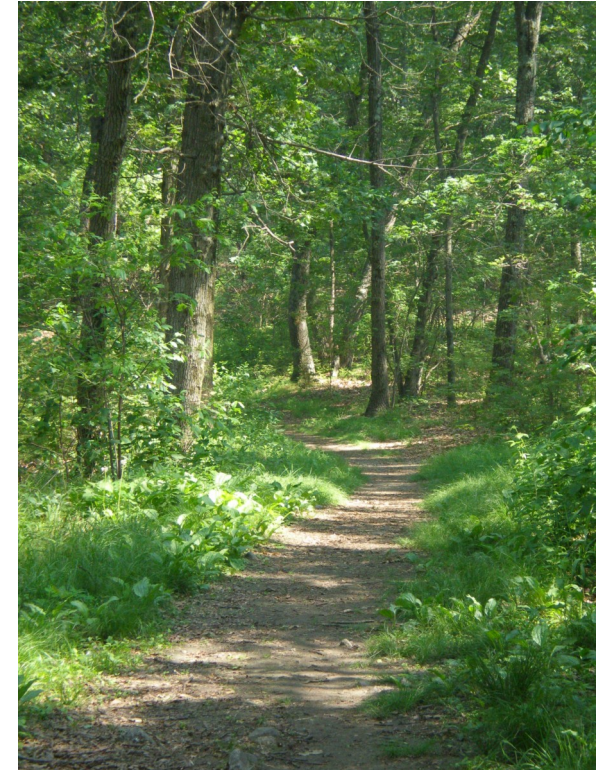


Photo courtesy of Karen Patterson Greene

Town of Natick
13 E. Central St
Natick, MA 01760
508-647-6450

Natick Open Space Advisory Committee
Natick Conservation Commission
Natick Planning Board
Natick Walks

